

# **The Marriage of Isaac**

## **A Practical Living in Oneness with the Lord**

### **I. Cooperating with God for the fulfillment of His purpose:**

- A. God's eternal purpose is to express Himself through a corporate people who bear His image—Gen. 1:26.
- B. The way God fulfills His purpose is by His people receiving Him as life as signified by the tree of life—2:9.
- C. Isaac's marriage was not just for him to have a happy, comfortable life; it was so that he could have a seed, an increase for the fulfillment of God's purpose.

### **II. All those involved cooperated in oneness with the Lord:**

#### A. Abraham:

- 1. Living in oneness with God:
  - a. Abraham did not fast and pray to seek God's will about who should be a wife for Isaac.
  - b. Because Abraham was living in oneness with the Lord, he knew that God would not accept a Canaanite as Isaac's wife; she must be from his relatives—24:3-4.
  - c. Abraham knew God's desire because he lived and walked in God's presence for the carrying out of His economy—v. 40.
  - d. We need to live and walk in accordance with God's economy; then your marriage will also be according to God's economy.
- 2. Charging his servant with the Lord: Abraham did not charge his servant to be faithful or honest, but simply with the Lord—vv. 2-3, 9, 40-41.
- 3. Believing in the sovereign Lord:
  - a. Abraham told his servant that the Lord would send His angel to prosper his way—v. 40.
  - b. His trust was in God more than in his servant.

#### B. The oldest servant:

- 1. Faithful in responsibility:
  - a. He had seen how Abraham did everything by trusting in the Lord.
  - b. Thus, he was infused by and with Abraham's life, also trusting in the Lord.
- 2. Trusting in the Lord for his responsibility:
  - a. He did not try to figure out who would be the one for Isaac.
  - b. He simply prayed in a simple way and the Lord answered his prayer.
- 3. Looking for the Lord's leading in the environment:
  - a. God is sovereign; nothing is accidental.
  - b. We also can see God's sovereignty in our environment.

#### C. Rebekah:

- 1. Chaste, kind and diligent:
  - a. When the servant asked for a drink, she volunteered to draw water for his 10 camels as well—vv. 19-20.
  - b. If the young sisters want to be under God's sovereignty, especially with respect to their marriage, they need to be kind and diligent; doing much more than people ask of them.
- 2. Absolute:
  - a. She did not hesitate about going to be Isaac's wife.

- b. Sisters, don't consider too much; if you feel that a particular brother is the one, marry him blindly, but if not, forget about him.
  - 3. Submissive: Sisters, once you are married, you are no longer your own head; your husband is your head.
- D. Laban and Bethuel:
  - 1. They were very hospitable; hospitality often brings in the greatest blessing.
  - 2. They accepted the Lord's sovereignty, recognizing that Rebekah marrying Isaac was the Lord's doing.
- E. Isaac:
  - 1. He needed a son to fulfill God's purpose, but he was not even married.
  - 2. He went out to the field to seek the Lord and meditate before God; while he was there Rebekah came.
  - 3. He simply took what his father had done for him and married Rebekah.
  - 4. Acting in this way, he was one with the Lord that God's purpose might be fulfilled in him.

### **III. A marriage for God's purpose:**

- A. Marriage includes both good times and hard times, but a marriage consecrated to God makes all the times meaningful.
- B. Seeking a marriage partner:
  - 1. There are many things to consider, of course, but I want to point out a few that you might miss:
    - a. There are many practical things that need to be taken care of in to have a pleasant household; if someone joyfully volunteers to serve, that is a positive.
    - b. Being able to serve in coordination in a pleasant atmosphere with others is also a positive.
    - c. Things will come up that you need your spouse to take care of; if someone willingly takes care of their responsibilities at home, that is a positive.
    - d. If someone's parents do everything for them, they may never have learned the practical skills and lessons needed for a pleasant environment at home.
  - 2. Choosing a marriage partner is one of the most important decisions of your life.
- C. When to seek a marriage partner:
  - 1. There is a time for everything—Eccl. 3:1.
  - 2. There are things that are best taken care of while you are still single:
    - a. Examples are education, spiritual training, and dedicating some time to serve the Lord full-time.
    - b. You may be able to do some of these things later, but already having a spouse or even being engaged makes it more complicated.
    - c. Take advantage of the years when you are single.
- D. If you are seeking marriage only for your own pleasure and happiness, you will be disappointed, become unhappy, and make your spouse miserable.
- E. The most meaningful and rewarding life is a life in oneness with God for the fulfillment of His purpose; this includes, of course, consecrating our marriage or future marriage to God for His purpose.

#### **Further reading:**

- 1. Life-study of Genesis, msg 60
- 2. Messages for Building Up New Believers, vol. 2, ch. 31